

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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EUR-25 BNDD-05 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

RSR-01 /089 W

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R 101253 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO USCINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

SECSTATE WASHDC 1421

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 1545

NOFORN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, US, IR

SUBJ: LONG TERM MAAG/ MISSION ORGANIZATION, IRAN:

ARMISH/ MAAG

REF: A) SECDEF 5692; B) TEHRAN 0778; C) TEHRAN 1169;

D) STATE 035341; E) TEHRAN 7330 OF DEC 7, 1972

SUMMARY: WE STRONGLY ENDORSE PAPER BEING SENT TO EUCOM BY CHIEF, ARMISH/ MAAG, AND OUTLINE PRINCIPLES WHICH WE BELIEVE PAPER'S FIRST ALTERNATIVE SATISFIES. WE REQUEST COPIES OF EUCOM PROPOSALS ON GENMISH AND MAAG ORGANIZATION FOR AMBASSADOR'S REVIEW. END SUMMARY.

1. MG WILLIAMSON, CHARMISH/ MAAG, IS TRANSMITTING TO USCINCEUR PAPER RESPONDING TO REQUEST (SECDEF 5692) FOR PROPOSALS FOR ORGANIZATION OF HIS COMMAND. PAPER DISCUSSES SECDEF CONCEPT AND DESCRIBES TWO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO PROBLEMS. PAPER HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY AND HAS OUR FIRM ENDORSEMENT.

2. PAPER'S FIRST ALTERNATIVE PROPOSES ASKING GOI
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TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO MAAG TO COVER ELEMENTS OUTSIDE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE CATEGORIES. MAAG CALCULATES 106 POSITIONS ARE ASSIGNED TO SA FUNCTIONS AND SHOULD BE FUNDED BY USG ; 102 JOBS ARE DESIGNATED ADVISORY ROLES AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY GOI. SA- ADVISORY DELINEATION WOULD RPRODUCE ROUGHLY 50-50 DIVISION OF MAAG SUPPORT COSTS BETWEEN USG AND GOI. GOI CONTRIBUTION COULD TAKE FORM OF INCREASED AID- IN- KIND. GOI SUPPORT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED ANNUALLY AS FMS CASE AND PERCENTAGE OF IRANIAN CONTRIBUTION COULD BE INCREASED FROM YEAR TO YEAR DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS.

3. SECOND PROPOSAL RESPONDS TO SECDEF GUIDANCE THAT MAAG SHOULD BE REDUCED TO 75 POSITIONS WITH BALANCE BEING TRANSFERRED TO ESA OR TAFTS. IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM MAAG EFFORTS TO CONSTRUCT HYPOTHETICAL MODEL TO MEET THAT NUMERICAL GOAL, THAT THIS CONCEPT IS SIMPLY NOT FEASIBLE. IN OUR VIEW, RATHER THAN REDUCING TO 75- MAN MAAG, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE PROGRESSIVELY TO INCREASE IRANIAN CONTRIBUTION UNTIL USG INPUT COVERED ONLY CONTINGENT OF THAT SIZE OR SMALLER.

4. EMBASSY AND MAAG FULLY CONCUR IN MOTIVATION IN WASHINGTON AND EUCOM FOR PLACING IRAN MAAG ON FIRM BASIS FOR DECADE AHEAD. DURING PAST MONTHS WE HAVE SUBMITTED SEVERAL CABLES BEARING ON THIS SUBJECT, PUTTING FORWARD OUR SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTING ON ADDRESSEE PROPOSALS. TEHRAN 0778 PRESENTED OUR INITIAL VIEWS ON SECDEF 5692 CONCEPT. AS WE SEE IT, THERE ARE CERTAIN BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH SHOULD GUIDE US IN CONSIDERING CHANGES IN MAAG STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT:

A) MAAG MUST NOT BE HAMPERED IN ITS TASK OF HELPING TO CREATE STRONGER IRANIAN ARMED FORCES. THIS IS THE ESSENTIAL MAAG MISSION, NOT ONLY FOR GOI, BUT IN SUPPORT IMPORTANT US INTERESTS IN THIS AREA. NO PARING OF NUMBERS OR REARRANGING OF UNITS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH OR DEROGATE FROM EFFECTIVENESS OF MAAG'S ROLE IN BOLSTERING DEFENSE OF THIS CENTRAL COUNTRY FOR REGIONAL STABILITY. AS IRAN'S FORCES GROW STRONGER AND BECOME PREPARED TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN AREA, MAAG'S INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNTERPARTS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY VALUABLE TO US.

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IT WOULD HARDLY BE TIMELY TO WEAKEN THAT RELATIONSHIP.

B) EACH SIDE SHOULD PAY ITS OWN WAY. IRAN HAS
LEFT NO DOUBT IT WANTS NO CHARITY; GOI IS FULLY AWARE OF
OUR BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS AFFECTING PROGRAMS ABROAD.

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THEREFORE THERE SHOULD BE NO GREAT DIFFICULTY IN
RAISING IRAN'S SHARE OF MAAG SUPPORT. THIS PROPOSAL
IS MADE IN MG WILLIAMSON'S PAPER; IT WAS ALSO
ADVANCED IN TEHRAN 7330. WHILE WE THINK 50-50 FORMULA
WOULD BE FAIR TO BOTH SIDES AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOI, WE WOULD
BE PLEASED TO COMMENT ON ANY OTHER MODIFIED FUNDING PROPOSAL
ADDRESSEES MAY PROPOSE.

C) MAAAG STAFFING SHOULD RESPOND TO GENUINE GOI REQUIRE-
MENTS. WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR ASSIGNMENT OF MAAG ADVISORS
WHOSE ADVICE IS NOT WANTED, BUT WHOSE PRESENCE IS TACITLY
ACCEPTED BY A GOI TOO POLITE TO TERMINATE THEIR SERVICES.
ANNUAL FMS NEGOTIATIONS FOR MAAG FINANCING SHOULD OBLIGE
GOI TO DECIDE WHAT ADVISORY SERVICES THEY ACTUALLY REQUIRE.
MAAG COULD MAKE SUGGESTIONS, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT GOI
TO TAKE DECISIONS AS TO WHERE ASSISTANCE WAS NEEDED.

D) CHANGE IN MAAG NUMBERS OR ORGANIZATION SHOULD BE
ACCOMPLISHED SO AS NOT TO GIVE RISE TO GOI CONCERNS ABOUT
OUR INTENTIONS. MANNER OF EFFECTING CHANGES WILL BE ALMOST
AS IMPORTANT AS CHANGES THEMSELVES. TO REDUCE MAAG

ABRUPTLY TO 75 POSITIONS WOULD COME AS SERIOUS SHOCK TO
GOI. SIMILARLY, TO TRANSFORM LARGE ADVISORY
ELEMENTS TO TAFT STATUS MIGHT BE UNDERSTOOD BY GOI AS
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SIGNALING THEIR TEMPORARY STATUS AS ADVISORS. GOI WILL
APPRECIATE OUR NEED FOR MORE MONEY, BUT NOT OUR FAILURE TO
COMPREHEND THEIR NEED FOR MAINTENANCE OF ADVISORY
STAFFING LEVELS.

E) EFFECTIVE MAAG SUPPORT FOR SALE OF US
EQUIPMENT MUST BE CONTINUED. IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY IN
EXTREME TO WEAKEN PROGRAM RESULTING IN US SALES OF BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS IN GOI DEFENSE MATERIALS BY SHORT- CHANGING MAAG
SECURITY ASSISTANCE STAFF. IT SHOULD BE FURTHER BORNE IN
MIND THAT FOR IRANISN PRIMARY MAAG FUNCTION IS NOT SALES,
BUT ADVICE. GOI WOULD NOT LOOK KINDLY ON MAAG WHICH WAS
DISPROPORTIONATELY WEIGHTED ON SIDE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE.
BALANCE IN TWO ACTIVITIES IS ESSENTIAL.

F) COMMAND AND CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS MUST BE
REASONABLE AND EFFECTIVE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED (TEHRAN 0778)
OBJECTIONS TO FURTHER FRAGMENTATION OF COMMAND RELATIONSHIP
IN IRAN. WE REALIZE THERE ARE LEGAL PROBLEMS AT ISSUE WITH
NEW TAFTS, BUT WE SEE NO REASON TO COMPLICATE SITUATION FURTHER
BY SLICING AWAY OF MAAG ELEMENTS.

G) AMERICAN PRESENCE IN IRAN SHOULD BE HELD TO ABSOLUTE
MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONNEL REQUIRED. NOT ONLY MAAG,
BUT ALL UNITS IN IRAN SHOULD COME UNDER PERIODIC SCRUTINY
TO COMBAT GROWTH OF MARGINAL FUNCTIONS AND REDUNDANT MANPOWER.
ANNUAL GOI- USG REVIEW OF MAAG FMS CASE COULD AID IN
THIS PURPOSE.

5. IN OUR JUDGMENT FIRST ALTERNATIVE IN MG WILLIAMSON' S
PAPER BEST SATISFIES THESE PRINCIPLES. WE COULD ENTER
NEGOTIATIONS WITH MFA ALONG LINES PROPOSED AS SOON AS
INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED. BUT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO
CONSIDER FRAGMENTING MAAG INTO TAFT TEAMS (SECOND
ALTERNATIVE) WHEN WE HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO OPPORTUNITY
TO REVIEW FUNCTIONING OF TEAMS SOON TO BE ASSIGNED
HERE.

6. WHEN WE COMMENTED ON PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN GENMISH
STATUS (TEHRAN 1169) AMBASSADOR HELMS EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN BEING CONSULTED BEFORE CHANGES WERE MADE (STATE 35341).
THEREFORE, WE REQUEST THAT WHEN EUCOM PROPOSALS ARE
COMPLETED, PAPERS COVERING GENMISH AND MAAG BE FORWARDED
TO EMBASSY FOR AMBASSADOR' S REVIEW.

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